

# CITY PAGES



# The Kindness Revolt

## A NOT-SO-SECRET PLOT TO MAKE A BETTER MINNESOTA



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**WHAT IS ONE GUILTY PLEASURE YOU ENJOY TOO MUCH TO GIVE UP?:** Drinking!

BARTENDER  
OF THE WEEK  
←  
Shanna



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# CITY PAGES

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## THE SHORTLIST



Ilhan Omar's rattling America... but that might be a good thing at citypages.com

GLEN STUBBE

## THE STAT SHEET:

**\$107 million**

Amount of welfare requested by Ryan Companies to redevelop the old Ford plant site in St. Paul

**5,700**

Gallons of nitric acid that spilled at Hawkins Chemical in northeast Minneapolis last week

**66,000**

Number of permits to carry guns issued by Minnesota in 2018

**39**

Inches of snow that fell on the Twin Cities in February, the snowiest on record

**“You’re offended because it’s in a painting? What did you do about the actual crimes?”**

Reader Shana West responds to “Minnesota Republican upset about painting in which Trump gropes a woman’s crotch,” at citypages.com.

## NATURE'S WRATH

**IN RURAL MINNESOTA**, an estimated 1,000 dairies had to dump their milk due to impassable roads that kept tanker trucks from reaching farms. Some 20 others saw barn roofs collapse from heavy snow.

A school in Byron canceled classes because its roof was visibly sagging. And if all this accumulation melts too fast, Stillwater is worried about record flooding.

It wasn't long ago that all but one Republican in the Minnesota House refused to acknowledge that man-made climate change was causing increasingly erratic weather. Perhaps Mother Nature is now sending a message that she doesn't suffer fools.

## POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

**LAURA LOOMER** and **JACOB WOHL** came to Minneapolis for God knows what reason

50 great **MITCH HEDBERG** jokes on what would've been his 50th birthday

25 years ago, Twin Cities-based R&B group Ashanti **CALLED OUT R. KELLY**

7 cartoonishly **AWFUL THINGS THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED** during Minnesota's weekend blizzard



# GANGS OF MOORHEAD

The city's wild turkeys prove too streetwise for South Dakota

**M**oorhead has a problem. Residents have complained about a large population of wild turkeys damaging property, roosting on rooftops, acting aggressively, and pooping all over everything.

So the city developed a plan to capture 75 "nuisance turkeys." Then the trappers would drop them off in eastern South Dakota, where they'd help restore the neighboring state's flagging turkey population.

But it turns out Moorhead's turkey population may be a bit too streetwise and ornery for South Dakota, which backed out of the deal because Moorhead's turkeys were "too urban."

Moorhead's troubles are not unique. A 2017 article in the Washington Post spoke of them "disrupting traffic" in western New York, "terrorizing" residents in Akron, Ohio, and causing authorities in Boston to resort

to "lethal force at least five times."

These anecdotes might lead you to believe the 20-pound modern dinosaurs are swelling their ranks, becoming too numerous to contain. The opposite is true. According to the National Wild Turkey Federation, the population has been declining slightly since 1999. But thanks to the turkey's fraught history, its range is bigger than ever before.

There was a time (around 1500) when 10 million turkeys roamed the United States and Canada. Then European settlers got a taste for them, started hunting them and destroying their habitats for good measure. By the early 20th century, there were some 200,000 remaining of that original 10 million, and they lived in only the remotest areas of 18 states. Minnesota had next to none.

The only reason turkeys are still around today is because we love to kill them so



JIM WILLIAMS

much. Wildlife managers, who knew they were a popular game animal, instigated a nationwide restoration effort. Hundreds of thousands of turkeys were trapped and then released to areas with the worst deficits. Today, you can hunt turkey in every state except Alaska. Its comeback is hailed as one of the greatest successes in wildlife conservation.

But animals that make a massive comeback and spread into new areas generally have little competition and lots of success. "That's kind of what we're seeing in Minnesota," says federation biologist Matt Weegman.

"Especially in the northern parts of the state. Turkeys are moving into habitat that isn't currently occupied."

And the reason these tough old birds like to hang out with us is because they know we don't hunt them on golf courses and in parking lots. The deal gets sweeter, of course, when someone happens to feed them.

Moorhead is still looking at plans to do something about its turkeys. Montana, for example, recently passed a statewide ban on feeding turkeys. Whatever they do, one thing is certain: South Dakota wants no part of Minnesota's flock. —HANNAH JONES

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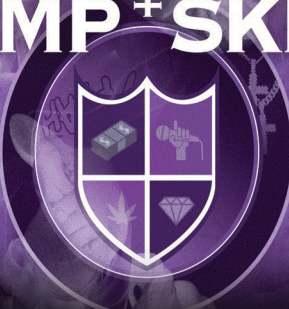
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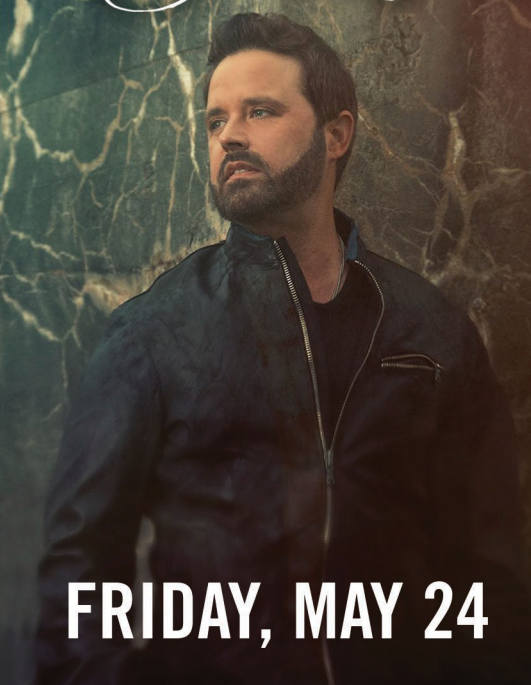


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By **PETE KOTZ**

**A**fter the 2016 election, the people of ISALAH knew something had gone terribly awry.

The multi-faith group—some 200 congregations strong—believes in the old-time religion you may have learned in Sunday school, or even from the most secular parents. The one centered on caring, sharing, and grace toward others, especially those in need.

Yet these precepts had been shoved from the public stage, considered antiquated if not naive. They'd been replaced by the teachings of a meaner Jesus, one the original might have charged with identity fraud.

Under this theology, the stranger was suspect, poverty was the bitter fruit of sloth, and the money changers were the most exalted children of the realm. By doing everything to ensure their good fortune, salvation would eventually trickle to the rest. But it never quite seemed to show up.

Nowhere was this more apparent than in rural Minnesota. The land of hard work and small-town values had backed a thrice-married sexual harasser known for stiffing his employees and bailing on his debts.

It made no sense.

The less charitable in the Twin Cities were quick to dismiss their country brethren as hypocrites and morons, voting for the whip that would eventually lash them. ISALAH saw something else: despair.

Over the next year, the group convened hundreds of meetings in homes across the state. The idea was to simply listen, to press beyond the tribal discourse of winning and losing to matters of the heart, says organizer Alexa Horwart. "What keeps you up at night?" they asked. "Where are you and your family struggling?"

What they found was a pervasive anxiety slithering through countryside. The American Dream had turned on them, people sensed, and was now using them for target practice.

Their fears orbited basic survival—paying for health coverage and child and elder care. They worried of disaster should a spouse become too sick to work. It was the same sense of disquiet you'd find anywhere in the Twin Cities.

But where rural Minnesota differed was on who to blame. The draining population of whites was refilling with Latinos and East Africans. "If you look at actual percentages of diversity in Worthington, Willmar, or Faribault," says Horwart, "they're probably more diverse than many of the suburbs."

And it just so happened these newcomers arrived as greater Minnesota spiraled in decline. To many, this was no coincidence. If the president called them moochers

# The Kindness Revolt

A NOT-SO-SECRET PLOT TO MAKE A BETTER MINNESOTA



L-R, top: Mahad Hassan, Ann Mongoven, Imam Asad Zaman, Rooble Osman, JaNaé Bates. Bottom: Yesenia Morales, Imam Mohamed Omar, Rev. James Erlandson.

EMILY UTNE

and criminals, it must be so. They were gobbling scarce resources, only adding to the burden of lifelong Minnesotans with nothing more to give.

"People were really feeling divided in their communities, their country, their congregations," says Kathryn Lozado,

an ISALAH organizer in southern Minnesota. There were fears that someone was about to get hurt.

So the discussions dove deeper. After all, the Somali next door had no say in the tripling price of insulin, the poverty wages of poultry plants, or the economics driving

the little guy from the farm.

Slowly but surely, they arrived at the obvious conclusion: Their neighbors weren't to blame, for these matters were decided by people far more powerful, those in the executive suites and their disciples in Washington and St. Paul.



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It was with this revelation, and by changing hearts one by one, that ISALAH built an army. It would fight for those survival issues critical to families, the kind neglected by governments buried in campaign cash from the wealthy. It would do so by packing committee hearings, unleashing thousands of volunteers, and building coalitions among everyone from day care providers to the patrons of black barbershops.

The mission was simple, if not ridiculously ambitious: to create a state that funnels its choices through those of old-school tenets of kindness, charity, and service to thy neighbor.

outside clinics, and televangelists preaching the prosperity gospel, where gated communities with marble flooring are the preferred launching pads to Godliness.

Throw it all into a character sketch, and Jesus looks a lot like Mitch McConnell.

"People have turned away from religion for all the insidious ways it's been used," concedes Bates.

Yet ISALAH's "prophetic resistance" is more in league with the women's suffrage or civil rights movements. Members range from Catholics to mainline Protestants to everything in between. "There are a lot of people who are increasingly engaged who

*"We're calling people back to their better selves," says minister JaNaé Bates.*

Says minister JaNaé Bates: "We're calling people back to their better selves."

#### Unusual suspects

By last fall's elections, the magnitude of that mobilization was clear. ISALAH's separate political arm, Faith in Minnesota, made 270,000 phone calls and knocked on 10,000 doors. A 70-person phone bank called 14,000 Muslim voters.

Though the Republican Party had increasingly become morals-optional under Trump, ISALAH was making headway with the DFL. It trained 3,500 leaders to participate in the precinct caucuses. At the party's convention, a full 10 percent of delegates and alternatives were ISALAH members.

The idea was to push the kind of home-and-hearth platform popular 50 years ago, before America defaulted to survival-of-the-fittest mode. "Honor thy mother and father" meant pursuing paid family leave and accessible health care. "Love thy neighbor" meant building a rapid response team to defend Muslims under attack. With its churches and mosques representing 250,000 parishioners, ISALAH couldn't be ignored.

One might forgive Minnesota for being leery of another religious movement. If you haven't been to church lately—and most people haven't—you never see congregants building ramps at the homes of handicapped parishioners, or old ladies making hot dishes for the funeral lunches of people they never knew.

What you do see are pedophile priests, red-faced men screaming at pregnant ladies

would say, 'I don't know if I'm a Christian,'" notes executive director Doran Schrantz.

There's no bonk-you-over-the-head theology. No unofficial purity tests like those administered by partisan activists. Talk to members, and you'll find them unflinchingly reflective, gracious, humble. Absent are the shrill demands customary of politics, the yowling denunciation of foes.

Nor do its leaders elbow for the lime-light. Look up Schrantz on the group's website, and you'll find her buried at the bottom of the staff list. Instead, everyday volunteers are trained to lead. Since faith breaches color and economic divide, these leaders range from grandmas on the prairie to Uber drivers from north Minneapolis.

"They're not lobbyists or the normal activist types," says Schrantz. "We're bringing a lot of what aren't the usual suspects to the table."

And they possess a refreshing sense of self-determination. "It's about how you are accountable to your community, not just what you're going to get," says Jessica Rohloff, a volunteer in Willmar.

"You're responsible for the government that you have, the leaders that you have. It's about breaking people out of the mindset, 'I'm the victim. I'm powerless.' You can't just talk about what you don't want. You have to present a vision of what you do want."

What they want is to relieve that anxiety flooding Minnesota, the feeling that misfortune is a moment from washing them away.

Take Minnesota's child care crisis. If you don't have young children, you're likely unaware there's a crisis at all.

The state now has the third most expensive prices in the country, according to the



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EMILY UTNE

Economic Policy Institute. The average cost of infant care is \$14,000 annually, more than in-state tuition at some colleges. Factor that into a minimum-wage paycheck, and you'll work from January till October before you see the first dime to spend on something else.

"A lot of parents I talk to say the cost of child care is more than their mortgage," says Camille Roberts, who organizes ISAIAH's 200-member provider coalition.

Low pay means preschool teachers can't afford to educate their own kids. Subsidies for poorer parents are based on an expense formula that's eight years old. Who wants to open a center when the economics point only to misery?

This recipe has left child-care deserts across Minnesota. Some parents drive 40 miles to find a place for their kids. Others simply pack up and leave, faced with the dilemma of either working and going broke, or staying home and ensuring they're broke.

Yet it's the kind of issue governments ignore. It's complex, expensive, among the many cancers of a have-and-have-not economy. To fix it requires shifting resources to the struggling, whose hardship is often painted as of their own making.

The same goes for paid family and medical leave. Nowhere is our reverse-Robin Hood economy more exposed than when someone falls ill.

If you get sick, you can only hope it will be covered by the most expensive insurance in the world. If you need medicine, you will pay two, three, four times the price that same drug costs in other countries. And if you're too weak to work, prepare for a swan dive to insurmountable debt.

In Minnesota, only 13 percent of workers get paid medical leave, making our sense

**Donald Grumley of Black Barbershop Coalition, which brings politicians and patrons face to face**

of compassion barely visible compared to much poorer places like Bulgaria, Chile, and Croatia, where paid leave is law.

So ISAIAH and a band of other groups are pushing for a state pool, funded by employees and employers alike, to cover these times of trouble.

The idea stems from the religious theory of abundance, that we've been given enough to survive and thrive, if only we share it. But the virtue of sharing, so important in childhood, tends to face immediate suspension upon entering the adult world.

"We're always told we don't have enough because your neighbor's taking it, and they don't deserve it," says Bates.

The problem is that "those who have the plenty are hoarding," she adds. "We're a very wealthy state, and we're abundant in people power. Minnesotans are very caring."

So ISAIAH is calling legislators back to this childhood value, hoping to convince them there might be a life more uplifting than seeing who can grab the most nickels on the table.

#### Bringing gas to the fire

If converting the haves is arduous, the have-nots are proving just as hard. Willmar, a farm town of 19,000 on Minnesota's western prairie, is where loving thy neighbor is known for its frequent vacations.

Consider it the epicenter of a state transforming. While surrounding towns fade and die, Willmar is growing, thanks

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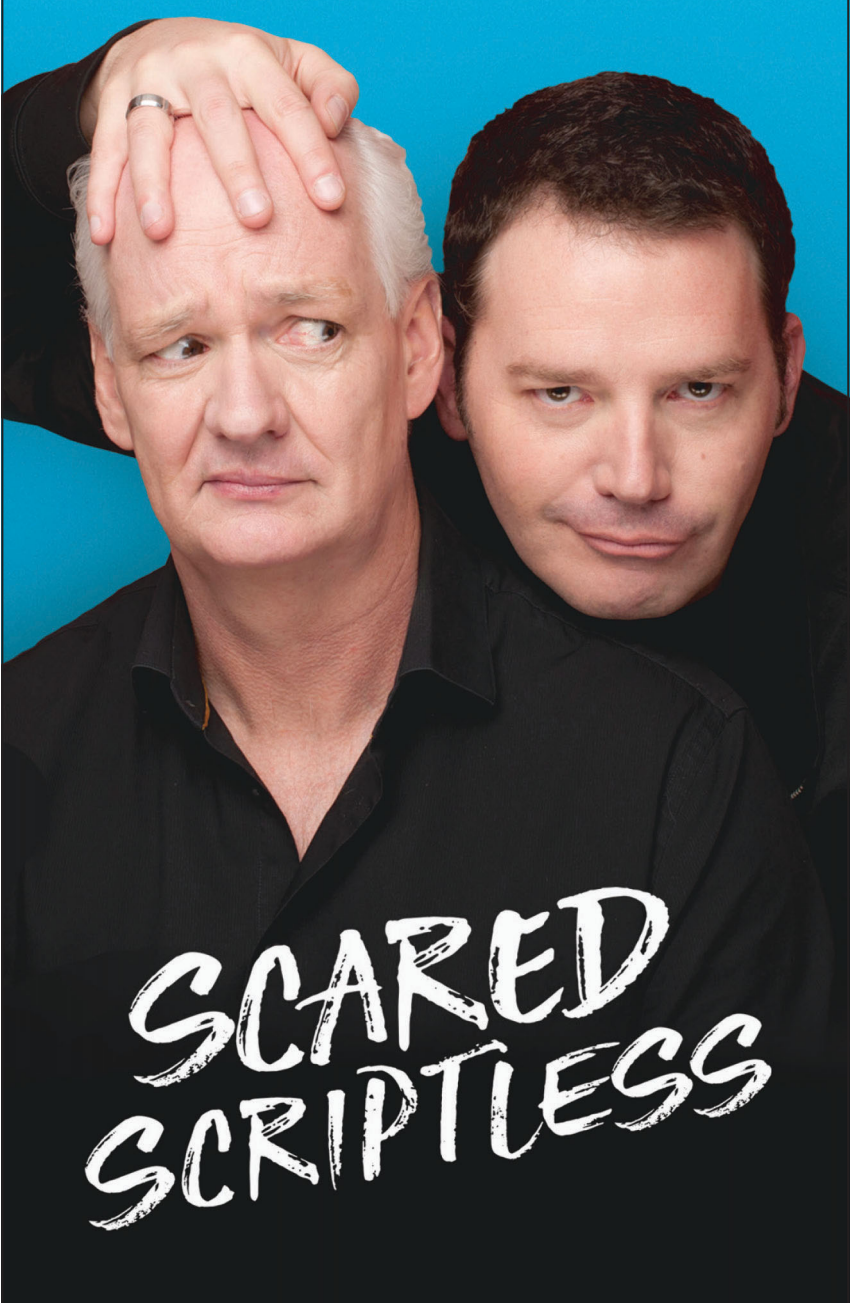
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to immigrants drawn by turkey processing and industrial dairy jobs. "It's a place where they see a lot of opportunity for people with limited language skills," says ISALAH volunteer Jessica Rohloff.

She points to her nine-year-old niece's class at school, where a third of the kids are white, a third Latino, and a third Somali.

The newcomers arrived as the old economy was retreating. "We started to watch every business close, and people started to give up their farms," says Rohloff. "That pain is still real, not feeling like your kids can stay and earn a living. You're watching these new people come

When Rohloff confronted the man, asking if he intended to shoot her, he simply responded, "Why would you say that?"

So ISALAH convened a series of house meetings, whites sitting down with immigrants, encouraged to speak of their fears.

"Out here, we see a lot of organizations come and go, and most of the time they do all the talking," says Rohloff. "ISALAH came out here and did all the listening. That was new, and there was something exciting about that."

It wasn't just the whites who were confused. Both sides worried the other was trying to convert them. And Mus-

---

*"A lot of parents I talk to say the cost of child care is more than their mortgage."*

---

in and fill those spaces, and a lot of that pain gets misdirected."

Of course, Willmar's fortunes would be in free-fall without these newcomers, who work the jobs whites don't want, create the businesses whites cannot. Still, there was a sense they were stealing the whites' way of life.

This was inflamed by the pundits of talk radio and Fox News, who warned of Mexican gangbangers and Muslims grubbing off the public dole while plotting jihad.

The roving anti-Muslim speakers who ply rural Minnesota—men like Eden Valley car salesman Ron Branstner—carried gas to the fire. They talked of Islamic control of the CIA and the U.N. plot to use refugees to overthrow the Constitution.

Fear has a way of loosening one's mental faculties. They played to enthusiastic crowds.

City Councilman Ron Christianson liked a resident's Facebook post about "these Somali intruders who are very open about wanting you dead." A move to add benches downtown was opposed because it would encourage unemployment. Others talked of getting rid of the parks, since they attracted the wrong kind of people.

Rohloff was the target of a Facebook post by an old high school classmate, who said he would "cure my refugee love with his Second Amendment rights." Others leaped to encourage him.

"It kind of scared me how quickly it ignited people," she says.

But it also showed the gaping disconnect between rhetoric and reason. Fear was causing people to lash out recklessly.

lims proved equally befuddled by their Christian neighbors.

"It changed the way the Somali community thought," says Rohloff. "One person said to me, 'I didn't think white people had any problems. I didn't know white people couldn't afford their cancer medication.'"

Muslims also organized public Eid dinners to break the fasts of Ramadan. For one, an imam went door to door with a Lutheran pastor, inviting white residents to the neighborhood mosque. A downtown street was blocked off for another. All of Willmar was welcome.

Yet unity would not come quickly. Willmar's attempt to pass a welcoming resolution was evidence.

These are rather basic gestures, simple announcements by city councils to declare that all are welcome to their towns. But they're often pummeled by misinformation and panic.

Hutchinson's was defeated by worries that it would become a sanctuary city. Willmar's was "extremely painful, like giving birth," says Rohloff.

It would take month upon month of meetings, where naked bigotry openly flared. This prompted outsiders to cast the town "as not very educated, not very smart, a bunch of racists." Yet the resolution would eventually triumph.

This gives Rohloff hope for her city. Growth will be paired with agony, she has no doubt. But in a small town, you must deal with it at some point, because you can't avoid your neighbors.

"I think we have higher conflict and higher possibilities than big cities, because we can't segregate ourselves."

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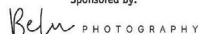
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### Without theatrics

By definition, a hearts and minds campaign is not bound for immediate glory. So ISALAH's victories must come small but sure.

They can be seen at the state Capitol, where talk of "morals" now means funding survival programs, rather than bagging on gay people.

In Northfield, residents backed the state's first municipal ID law, allowing undocumented Mexicans and Guatemalans to open bank accounts and at least prove where they live.

In St. Cloud, an agreement was cast between city and citizens "to put down on paper what we want our policing to look like," says Horwart. "There's a lot of tension in St. Cloud about race. The police department and community leaders didn't want something terrible to happen and really tear the community apart. The police department is really trying to address bias."

In Rochester, where over 50 languages are spoken in the schools, an immigrant defense fund was built, a means of showing love to thy neighbor whose principal sin was being born in a country where he couldn't provide for his family.

Then come the even smaller moments, the ones that will eventually bring about a better Minnesota.

Donald Crumbley works with ISALAH's black barbershop coalition, a group of 20 shops that host public discussions around the Twin Cities. House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler recently stopped in for one at the Chiseler Barber Shop in Brooklyn Park.

Crumbley witnessed the changing assumptions among the 30 in attendance, who seemed surprised that a top state official would willingly meet with them. "To be honest, you would think you wouldn't have the ability to talk to them, that they wouldn't have time," he says of the sentiment.

Yet since ISALAH's way is to question rather than yell, to seek understanding rather than enemies, these are adult conversations without theatrics. Politicians don't feel like they're showing up at a shooting gallery, prompting them to lose their scripts for more honest discussion. "They've been very realistic, very open with us," says Crumbley. "It's been really refreshing."

And attendees come to realize there will be no quick fix, that our troubles are much like a car stuck in the snow. To stand idle achieves nothing. Everyone must push to set it free.

"It's amazing to have so many different groups from all walks of life come together," says Crumbley. "We have more in common than we actually know. We just don't talk to each other." ☐



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY**  
**March**  
**9**  
10am-3pm

### Luck of the Irish CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Veterans Community Center  
Inver Grove Heights, MN

**SUNDAY**  
**March**  
**10**  
10am-3pm

### Spring Fling CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Lakeville Ames Arena  
Lakeville, MN

**SUNDAY**  
**March**  
**17**  
10am-3pm

### Shamrocks & Shenanigans CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Scandia Creamery  
Scandia, MN

**SUNDAY**  
**March**  
**17**  
10am-3pm

### Perfectly Rosemount CRAFT SHOW

Rosemount American Legion  
Rosemount, MN

**SATURDAY**  
**March**  
**23**  
10am-3pm

### March into Spring CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Apple Valley Hayes Arena  
Apple Valley, MN

**SUNDAY**  
**March**  
**24**  
10am-3pm

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BY THERESA J. BECKHUSEN

**T**he cheapest foods tend to be calorie-dense but nutritionally bankrupt—think of the bounty a five-spot furnishes from the McDonald's dollar menu.

And when straight-up access to nutritious foods is obstructed or barred to many Americans—most often those in communities of color, low-income neighborhoods, and rural areas—swinging by the drive-thru often makes the most sense. Not everyone has the luxury of a few hours to browse farmers markets and roast, chop, and blanch a mountain of fresh vegetables for the week ahead, or the space to store them.

But consuming foods low in nutrition deprives the body of critical vitamins and minerals and increases the risk of developing serious illnesses like diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. Treating or managing those conditions isn't cheap. How do we even begin to chip away at a tangled network that pushes fast-food franchises into urban communities of color and creates a market of cheap and filling foods that doesn't support health?

Enter Fruit and Veggie Rx boxes.

"Fruit and Veggie Rx boxes—they're actually not just healing people and families, they're healing whole systems," says Pakou Hang, co-founder and director of Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA).

The goal of Fruit and Veggie Rx boxes—a program run by HAFA and HealthEast Clinic-Roselawn—is getting CSA boxes of healthy fruits and vegetables into the hands of people who live in food-insecure areas. Jump-started by a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Fruit and Veggie Rx offers seasonal, culturally relevant CSA boxes to participants who have been referred by HealthEast doctors. Produce is drawn from crops grown by farmers in HAFA, so contents may include Hmong cucumbers, bitter melons, ground cherries, and Korean yellow jewel melon, in addition to what Hang describes as more mainstream produce (tomatoes, basil, onions, celery).

The produce goes a long way to providing patients with essential nutrients. But Hang and her partners think holistically. They see the boxes as just one spoke in the wheel of the food system, which, to her eyes, is pretty broken.

"Yes, it's about giving people access to healthy food," she says. "It's also about how we build community. How we care for each other."

# PRESCRIPTION PRODUCE

HAFA's Fruit and Veggie Rx Boxes are just what the doctor ordered



MIKE HAZARD

As Fruit and Veggie Rx was being developed, Hang and her partners decided to focus on St. Paul's east side to have as much impact as possible, both in increasing access to nutritious foods and fostering community. The area experiences low rates of health insurance, a low employment rate, and a high rate of poverty. Many families are food-insecure or are political refugees or recent immigrants.

Since its pilot year three years ago with HealthEast Clinic-Roselawn and a few participating families, Fruit and Veggie Rx is now available in four clinic locations and serves 100 families.

Dr. James Letts, who's been involved with the program since its inception, reports that patients have seen positive health indicators, like improved control of diabetes. What surprised him were "the unexpected social and mental health benefits of the program." He's seen a patient for over a year who struggles with debilitating illness, both physical and mental, for whom the usual

treatments didn't lead to much success. "He was enrolled in the Fruit and Veggie Rx program," Letts says, "and literally the first time I ever saw him smile was when he left the clinic carrying a big bag of colorful veggies for him and his family."

Hang, doctors, and staffers at program sites have seen other positive results these past few years. Not only were patients and their families excited for clinic visits, but staff were also more engaged. "There was so much more social capital," Hang says. "It's not just a box of food. It's like offering them a relationship or a friendship, and you're showing: 'I care about you.' It changed everything."

Fruit and Veggie Rx isn't the only program of its type. Wholesome Wave, an organization based in Cleveland, has several initiatives aimed at increasing fruit and vegetable consumption in food-insecure individuals and families. Letts applauds WW's positive health outcomes, but adds that Fruit and Veggie Rx is unique in "its simplicity

for patients." Physicians and clinic team members easily enroll new folks in the program for free, and they pick up their CSA boxes right there at the clinic.

"Perhaps the most unique aspect of the program," Letts says, "is the associated community-building that HAFA has been leading."

He's referring to the annual celebration HAFA hosts for patients and families, clinic staff, HAFA staff, and HAFA farmers. Everyone takes a bus to the farm for a tour, before enjoying a big dinner together.

"People should eat together," Hang says. "In many indigenous cultures and many cultures in general, they sit down and they create space for food, for meals. Mealtime is when families reconnect, when communities connect, and they take their time with the food. It's not just about the content of the food, but it's about what is done during the meal."

Hang notes that our society doesn't "teach people how to cook real food anymore," and she heard of program participants asking neighbors for advice. She learned that two families had lived next door to each other without talking for 15 years, but when one encountered an unfamiliar ingredient, they knocked on their neighbors' door. (For those who prefer reading to door-knocking, HAFA has also added newsletters, recipes, and examples to CSA boxes.)

So far, Fruit and Veggie Rx has been funded through grants, but Hang and her partners are exploring how to make the program sustainable on its own. "If we have health insurance companies that are willing to subsidize gym memberships, couldn't they subsidize Veggie Rx boxes?" Hang asks. Again, she's thinking of the long game: A little subsidization of healthy food now prevents costly suffering later.

What's next? If Fruit and Veggie Rx can operate independently and continue to flourish, how does the program fit into modern American healthcare? And our food system? While the program on its own can't entirely fix these giant systems, Fruit and Veggie Rx does provide a window into a possible future. There, food and medicine aren't siloed. Healthcare supports whole health. Patients develop meaningful relationships with their care providers and with other members of their community.

"Food is a great uniter," Hang says. "Yes, there are a lot of divisions and tensions in the world right now, but there are also people who care about each other, and people who want to heal and lift each other up. We have to remember that." 



# UP NEXT AT THE ORDWAY

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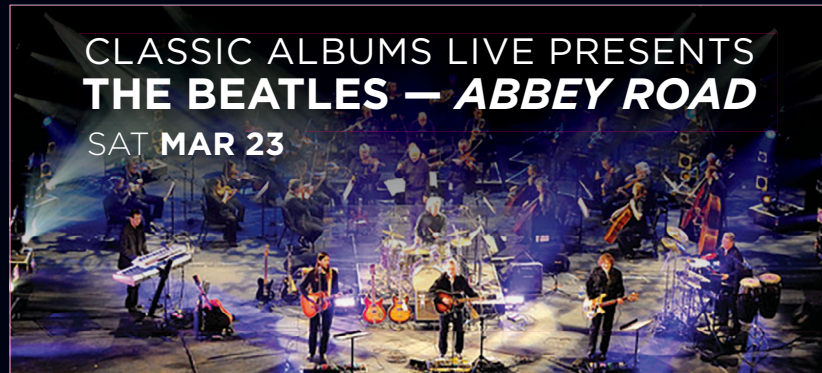
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# A LIST

**FRIDAY** FeMNist Day 2019 p. 23

**SATURDAY** LuckyPalooza celebrates St. Paddy's early p. 23

**TUESDAY** Immigration stories at the History Center p. 23

Nope, this is not a space egg. It's a sauna that will be set up on ASI's lawn.



IMAGE COURTESY OF AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

**WEDNESDAY 3.6**

## ART

### REFLECT: BIGERT & BERGSTRÖM

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

This might almost make winter in Minnesota tolerable. We're talking about the five-meter-tall golden egg that'll soon be cracked open to reveal a sauna. *Solar Egg*, a project of Swedish artists Bigert & Bergström, known internationally for the ways their work addresses climate change, will be on hand at the "Eggstravaganza" opening reception to answer questions about the egg's making, meaning, and message. Constructed of wood and covered with a mirrored surface, the egg reflects its surroundings, while the heart-shaped sauna inside invites participation. Book the sauna

(Wednesday evenings and weekends) and join the conversation. The opening night party runs from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, and features sauna sessions, food, and cocktails. The exhibition is included with museum admission; \$30-\$35 per sauna session; \$10-\$17 for the opening night party. 2600 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-4907.

**Through April 28 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

## BOOKS

### DAVE EGGERS AND MOKHTAR ALKHANSHALI

THE PARKWAY THEATER

Following the commercial and critical success of 2000's *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, Dave Eggers has helped amplify the stories of the displaced, disenfranchised, and oppressed. In his new work of nonfiction, *The Monk of Mokha*, Eggers tells the

story of Mokhtar Alkhanshali, a San Francisco "lobby ambassador" (read doorman) who sets about to restore credibility and honor to the coffee of Yemen, the homeland of his immigrant parents. The book serves as a cultural study of Yemeni history and their civil war in 2015, how immigrants in pursuit of the American dream are treated in the U.S., gentrification in San Francisco, and the intricacies and abuses in how coffee is harvested and sold throughout the world. For this presentation, by Magers & Quinn Booksellers, both Eggers and Alkhanshali will be on hand for what is sure to be a lively and informative conversation about "entrepreneurship, community development, civil war, and coffee." 7 to 9 p.m. \$10 general admission; \$26 admission with paperback book included. 4814 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis; 612-822-8080. —ERIK THOMPSON

## THEATER

### CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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Charlie Bucket is an impoverished lad whose fortunes turn when he uncovers one of five golden tickets concealed in Wonka chocolate bars, bestowing access to the fabled Wonka grounds where chocolate rivers flow, edible flowers grow, and Oompa-Loompas serenade departing guests with macabre morality songs. How has a global chocolatier like Willy Wonka successfully evaded the authorities when his working conditions seem explicitly engineered to maim visitors? Don't think too hard about it; without these hazards, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* would lose its hilarious means of dispatching characters for their vices. Such delightful weirdness is given an entirely new dimension via the heightened atmosphere of the stage production. While retaining songs like "The Candy Man" and "Pure Imagination," this musical also introduces compositions from Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, a duo celebrated for their work on *Hairspray*. Adapted by Scottish playwright David Greig, the show retains the story's eccentric wit. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sundays. \$39-\$135. 910 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007.

**Through March 16 —BRAD RICHASON**

**THURSDAY 3.7**

## ART/GALLERY

### LEX THOMPSON: RE/COLLECT

TUCKUNDER PAVILION

Martha Ann Maxwell, who died in 1881, was a Colorado naturalist and artist who developed her own way of preserving dead animals. Not only did she help pioneer the budding field of taxidermy, she also insisted on placing her specimens in appropriate settings, or dioramas, which is now a common museum practice. One of her displays, *Women's Work*, was a hit at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition.





JULIETA CERVANTES, COURTESY OF LIVE ARTS BOARD

But her success was short-lived, as her attempts to make a living off her innovations failed. In “Re/collect,” Minneapolis artist Lex Thompson brings his documentary sensibility to bear on Maxwell’s unsung, prescient practices. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, March 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. Regular hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Free. 681 17th Ave. NE, Casket Arts, Studio 117, Minneapolis. **Through Sunday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

#### DANCE/POETRY WHAT REMAINS

WALKER ART CENTER

Staying safe. Remaining vigilant. Watching your back, especially if you are a person of color in a white society. In *What Remains*, poet Claudia Rankine, choreographer Will Rawls, and filmmaker John Lucas create a haunting landscape of chiaroscuro lighting, movement, and sound around the kinds of surveillance that are part of the black American experience. Potent text on racial violence, adapted from Rankine’s book *Citizen: An American Lyric*, merges with movement as dancers jerk, sway, and vibrate in extended sequences that suggest ancient rituals, spirit possession, and charged playfulness. The shadowed recesses become vibrantly alive through performances by Jeremy Toussaint-Baptiste, Leslie Cuyjet, Jessica Pretty, and Tara Aisha Willis. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. \$28. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **Through Saturday —LINDA SHAPIRO**

#### COMEDY JIM GAFFIGAN

HISTORIC STATE THEATRE

For years, Jim Gaffigan has been making people laugh really hard. So what makes one of America’s most popular standup comics laugh? “Ricky Gervais in *The Office* and *Extras*. And Brian Regan and Dave Attell,” he responds.

Growing up in Indiana in the ’80s, Gaffigan gravitated toward movies like *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles* and *Airplane!* He recalls taping the latter on his VCR and watching it over and over. “I loved how it was so unrelenting with all of the different comedy ideas.” The former appealed to him because of John Candy’s performance. “It has always surprised me that he didn’t get an Academy Award for that. My god, the empathy you felt for him.” Gaffigan used to work in advertising, but after moving to New York to further his career, he pursued his dream of becoming a standup comic and actor instead. 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$39.75–\$59.75. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

#### ART/GALLERY WOMEN & MUSEUMS

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

Heroic and sublime, Baltimore artist Sara VanDerBeek’s photographic examinations conflate a variety of imagery—figures, faces, and vessels—into arresting representations. She created this exhibit by pairing her works with objects from Mia’s collections, selecting those that appealed to her as an artist, mother, and woman. She’s assembled items of material culture that reflect a personal view, while examining notions of authority and institutional critique. There will be an artist’s talk on Thursday, March 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (tickets are \$10). Free. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3131. **Through July 28 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

#### COMEDY CHAD DANIELS

ACME COMEDY CO.

“I like the winter. I like playing in the snow and doing all that stuff,” says comedian and Minnesotan Chad Daniels

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ►

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**OCT 31**

## FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



**JACOB BANKS**  
WITH ABIR, JESSICA MANNING  
**MAR 06**



**YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND AND HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES**  
WITH FIRESIDE COLLECTIVE  
**MAR 08**



**MIKE DOUGHTY**  
WITH WHEATUS  
NIGHT 1 SOLD OUT!  
**MAR 10**



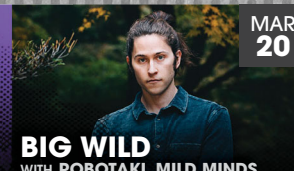
**JUNGLE**  
WITH HOUSES  
**MAR 12**



**HOTLANTA:**  
A Dance Party Celebrating the ATL Sound  
WITH ANDER OTHER, DJ IZZIE P, GREENERY  
**MAR 15**



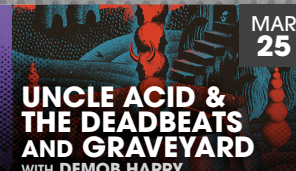
**FLIP PHONE XXL:**  
SPRING BREAK STARRING FARRAH MOAN (RuPaul's Drag Race)  
WITH PHI PHI O'HARA, TYGRA, & MORE  
**MAR 16**



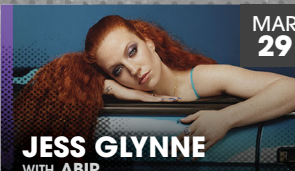
**BIG WILD**  
WITH ROBOTAKI, MILD MINDS  
**MAR 20**



**MR. EAZI**  
**MAR 23**



**UNCLE ACID & THE DEADBEATS AND GRAVEYARD**  
WITH DEMOB HAPPY  
**MAR 25**



**JESS GLYNNE**  
WITH ABIR  
**MAR 29**

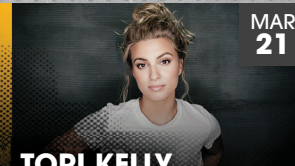
## PALACE THEATRE



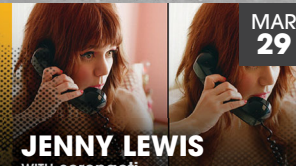
**THE REVIVALISTS**  
WITH RAYLAND BAXTER  
**MAR 09**



**BOB WEIR AND WOLF BROS**  
**MAR 19**



**TORI KELLY**  
**MAR 21**

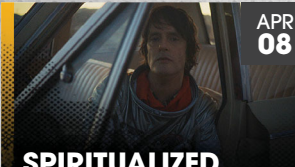


**JENNY LEWIS**  
WITH serengeti  
**MAR 29**

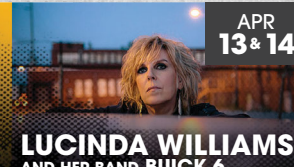


**BOB MOULD BAND**  
WITH PORCUPINE  
**MAR 30**

## FITZGERALD THEATER



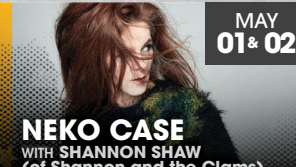
**SPIRITUALIZED**  
**APR 08**



**LUCINDA WILLIAMS**  
AND HER BAND BUICK 6  
**APR 13 & 14**



**JOEY DIAZ**  
**APR 19**



**NEKO CASE**  
WITH SHANNON SHAW (of Shannon and the Clams)  
**MAY 01 & 02**



**LUCIUS**  
WITH PURE BATHING CULTURE  
**MAY 10 & 11**

## FINE LINE



**ADRIAN BELEW**  
W/ SAUL ZONANA  
**MAR 06**



**MAC IRV**  
W/ MAC TURNER & PRINCE RILEY, TAE SUPREME, SOLO STAR  
**MAR 08**



**ALL THEM WITCHES**  
W/ PLAGUE VENDOR  
**MAR 09**



**HAYWYRE**  
W/ JENAUUX, K+LAB  
**MAR 14**



**SMELLS LIKE NIRVANA**  
W/ PORKESOTA (PRIMUS TRIBUTE)  
**MAR 15**



**THE BLUE STONES**  
W/ LAVENDER DAUGHTER  
**MAR 23**

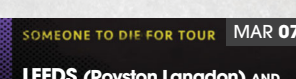
## 7TH ST ENTRY



**DANIEL ROMANO**  
W/ RED DAUGHTERS, OSCAR TENGO  
**MAR 06**



**JØUR, PHANTOM HEART, BETTER YEARS, AND ORCA COLONY**  
**MAR 11**



**SOMEONE TO DIE FOR TOUR**  
LEEDS (Royston Langdon) AND JIMMY GNECCO (Ours)  
**MAR 07**



**ELLE PF, ANOTHER HEAVEN, AND STRAYA**  
**MAR 12**

## TURF CLUB



**JAKE LA BOTZ**  
W/ ERIK KOSKINEN  
**MAR 06**



**ELECTRIC FEEL:**  
2000s Indie Dance Party  
W/ FoolProof  
**MAR 08**



**WILLIAM RYAN KEY**  
(formerly of Yellowcard)  
W/ SELFISH THINGS, CORY WELLS  
**MAR 10**



**BLACK MARKET BRASS**  
W/ SEABERG & THE BLACK VELVET PUNKS, DOULA SOUL COLLECTIVE  
**MAR 08**



**VHS COLLECTION**  
**MAR 13**



**LIZ COOPER AND THE STAMPEDE**  
W/ THE GO ROUNDS  
**MAR 12**



**CHUCK PROPHET & THE MISSION EXPRESS**  
W/ KATY GUILLEN AND THE GIRLS  
**MAR 13**



**DBUK** (Slim Cessna's Auto Club)  
AND NORMAN WESTBERG (Swans)  
W/ WAX LEAD  
**MAR 14**



**GIBBZ**  
**MAR 09**



**MAX FROST**  
W/ MIKEY MIKE, UPSAHL  
**MAR 14**

## AROUND TOWN



**ÁSGEIR**  
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER  
**MAR 19**



**TOBE NWIGWE**  
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL  
**MAR 22**



**NEYLA PEKAREK**  
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER  
**MAR 27**

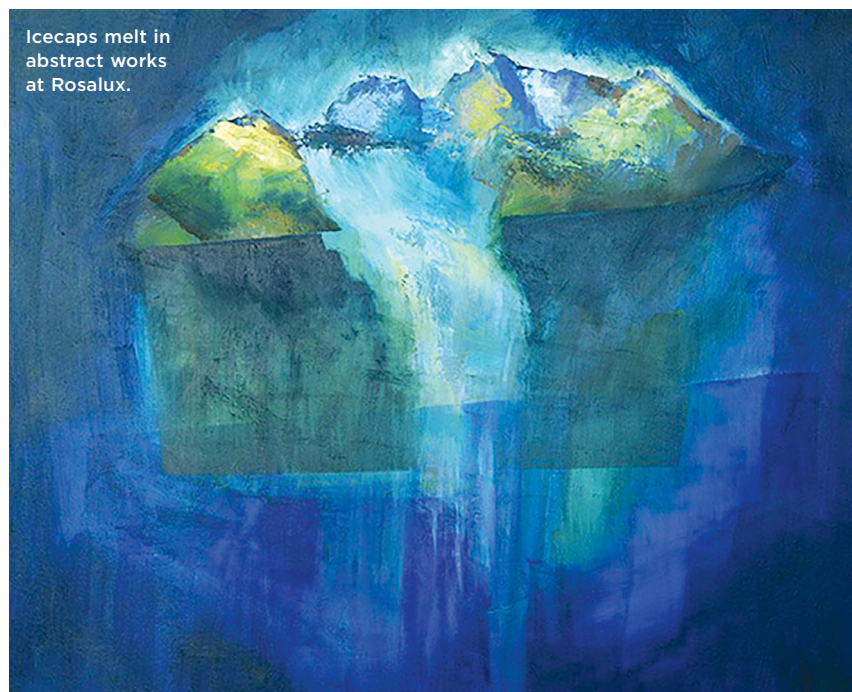


**TOKEN**  
W/ KUR  
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL  
**MAR 28**



**OLIVIA O'BRIEN**  
W/ KEVIN GEORGE  
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL  
**APR 03**





Icecaps melt in abstract works at Rosalux.

BETSY RUTH BYERS, DEFERRED GRIEVANCE

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

from a golf course in Florida. “But this winter, with the 30-below days and a foot of snow every other day, has been a bit much.” Fortunately, Daniels can escape to other parts of the country. “I split custody of my 15-year-old daughter, so I’m home as much as I can be,” he explains, “but if I have to take her with me on the road, she loves it.” The two have a blast. “We’ll go see live music. In Nashville we went to Third Man Records. I like doing a lot of history stuff, too, so if I’m going to take her out of school to travel with me I like to make sure she’s at least learning.” Last year, Daniels did a run through the South, allowing him and his daughter to see the motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, now the Civil Rights Museum, as well as his birthplace in Atlanta. “We went through Alabama, and it turned into a civil rights trail. Very cool.” Onstage, Daniels talks about being a divorced dad, having a daughter going through puberty, and having a son in college. His one-hour special is due to be released in April through Amazon. 18+. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

FRIDAY 3.8

## FESTIVAL

### FEMNIST DAY 2019

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

This Friday, women business owners, creatives, and allies will come together for a day of skills-sharing, commerce, and networking. Put together by charity

org Still Kickin, co-work space the Coven, and author Nora McInerney, this daylong gathering starts off with a benefit breakfast for entrepreneurs. Then Coven will host a series of workshops and feedback sessions where people will share experiences and resources, and give advice. In the evening, over 50 women-owned businesses will showcase their wares at a night market. Check out pins from Cherry Moon Press, join the Feminist Book Club, and shop for clothing from Tandem Vintage, CAKE Plus-Size Retail, and TrackGirlz. These events are open to all, with a focus on women, femme, trans, and non-binary entrepreneurs. You can RSVP and find more info at femnistday.com. Free; breakfast is \$100-\$125. The night market runs from 5 to 10 p.m. at Parallel’s Holden Room (145 Holden St. N., Minneapolis). **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

## DANCE PARTY

### FOREVER YOUNG: ELECTRIC FEEL

TURF CLUB

Sometimes the best way to start off the weekend is with a big, goofy dance party. Forever Young has been hosting such events for a few years now, magically managing to create nights that feel more like a middle-school dance and less like a 21+ meat market—and that’s no easy feat! DJ FoolProof will play tunemaster for the evening, which will feature hits, deep cuts, and anthems from the ’00s. Jam out to blasts from the past, including Hot Chip, Modest Mouse, the Faint, Phoenix, and Postal Service. So leave your *Laguna*

*Beach*-style drama at home and go on a Vampire Weekend “Holiday” instead. 21+. 9 p.m. \$7/\$10 at the door. 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

## COMEDY

### AZIZ ANSARI

NORTHROP

Last year, Aziz Ansari found his career and personal life rocked by allegations of sexual misconduct. For some, the accusation served as a warranted condemnation, while others questioned the rush to decry Ansari for a regretful, but ultimately consensual, encounter. As a socially progressive comedian who frequently focuses on the evolving standards of dating in the age of social media (both in his co-authored bestselling book, *Modern Romance*, and on his Emmy-winning series, *Master of None*), Ansari faced scrutiny as pundits lined up to lament that even advocates of equality can have bad judgement. Considering the introspective nature of Ansari’s comedy, it seems certain that he will continue to reflect on the event in his work. Reviews of his most recent appearances suggest that his observations remain hilariously astute, even as his once rosy view of social media seems to have darkened. 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. \$38-\$68. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-624-2345. **—BRAD RICHASON**

SATURDAY 3.9

## FESTIVAL

### LUCKYPALOOZA

WEST SEVENTH STREET

Whether you’re the type to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day all week or just game for a

block party in the snow, LuckyPalooza has an option for you. This Saturday, West Seventh Street will close to cars. Instead businesses and revelers will spill out into the lanes, with tent parties planned at Cossetta’s, McGovern’s, and Tom Reid’s. Ride MN will set up a ramp where daredevils will perform stunts on bikes, and brave folks can hold on for dear life on the mechanical bull. Live music includes pre-holiday tunes from Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band and rock from Tim Sigler. A jumbotron will air the Minnesota Boys State High School Hockey Tournament, which is taking place right next door at the Xcel Energy Center. Find tips and more info at [www.visitsaintpaul.com](http://www.visitsaintpaul.com). All ages. 2 to 11 p.m. Free. West Seventh Street, from Walnut Street to Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

## ART/GALLERY

### ASHELY PEIFER, BETSY RUTH BYERS

ROSALUX GALLERY

This joint exhibition at Rosalux juxtaposes Ashely Peifer’s playful textiles and works on paper with Betsy Ruth Byers’ gorgeous abstract paintings of disappearing glaciers. Where Peifer’s work has a flat, childlike sense of the primitive, Byers’ abstractions are resonant with mood, alive with depth, and vivid with the intensity of the moment. Both artists capture a sense of the fleeting and render it concrete. There will be a public reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 9. Free. 1400 Van Buren St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-747-3942.

**Through March 31 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

## TUESDAY

## ART/MUSEUM

### GREEN CARD VOICES

MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER

Nonprofit organization Green Card Voices wants to share the stories of immigrants to Minnesota in this traveling exhibition. At the Minnesota History Center you’ll find large-scale displays with photographs and biographies; use your phone to scan a QR code and each person will detail their experiences with you through video and audio clips. The collection showcases local immigrants from 22 different countries, and participants range in age, profession, and how they ended up in Minnesota, be it through DACA, as refugees, or through family connections. Everyone has their own story, but they all intersect here in our state. The show is included with museum admission. 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-259-3000. **Through May 27 —LOREN GREEN**



GREEN CARD VOICES



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**Cabooze**

**3/9**  
**Shine on You Crazy Diamond- A Tribute to David Gilmour**

**3/14**  
**Mozzy**

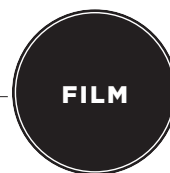
**3/16**  
**St. Billies Day at The Whiskey**

**3/16**  
**Trilogy Tour- Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd & Doors Tribute at The Cabooze**

**3/30**  
**KID TRUNKS x CRAIG XEN // Members Only Tour**

**4/6**  
**Stevie Ray Vaughan Tribute Show**

**Tickets**  
**www.cabooze.com**



# SNAPSHOTS

A fractured biopic of legendary photographer Robert Mapplethorpe



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS

BY TONY LIBERA

While the real-life odyssey of outsider photographer Robert Mapplethorpe is fascinating, *Mapplethorpe*, the biopic by filmmaker Ondi Timoner, leaves something to be desired.

The film doesn't linger on much of anything long enough for heavy punctuation: a quick snapshot of his school days, meeting Patti Smith in the park, moving to the Chelsea Hotel, discovering his photography skills. These defining moments pass quicker than you can take them in; the only consistent thread is the lifelong struggle between Robert (played here by Matt Smith) and his father. Yet even this relationship doesn't seem important enough, all things considered, to warrant any emotional investment on our end. Chances are you won't get much out of this cinematic take unless you know absolutely nothing about Mapplethorpe the man.

The issue is not that *Mapplethorpe* is an affront to the artist's legacy or an outright mess, it's that nothing feels

particularly illuminating or resonant. For a subject as raw as Mapplethorpe, the movie gives off a vibe that's a bit too sanitized, too safe. All biopics can be this way, but you do have to wonder, given Timoner's documentarian background, why she opted for a narrative feature. If it's because James Crump recently made a documentary about Mapplethorpe and Sam Wagstaff in 2007 (*Black White + Gray*), then the question becomes: Why make this movie at all?

External circumstances further complicate matters. While the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation gave its blessing to the filmmakers, Patti Smith did not. And anybody who knows the history of Mapplethorpe and Smith would consider that a red flag.

Having read *Just Kids* (Smith's telling of their story), it's impossible not to draw comparisons between the two. Smith's book is an autobiographical work; the film is a color-by-numbers tall tale. At one point the dramatized Patti Smith, played by Marianne Rendón, triumphantly declares that the two of them will one day be great artists, a character leverag-

## MAPPLETHORPE

directed by Ondi Timoner  
now open, Lagoon Cinema

ing what we the viewers know on the other side of history. But *Just Kids* paints a far bleaker picture, and it's hard to take *Mapplethorpe* too seriously with the book in the back of your mind. While the real Patti Smith made our stomachs ache with descriptions of her perpetual hunger, a literal starving artist who could only delight in the rare cup of coffee down the street, the version here is too in-the-know. It makes the whole tale feel disingenuous.

To his credit, Matt Smith does a solid job portraying the photographer, leaning into Mapplethorpe's lifestyle and never shying away from the shittier aspects of his personality. It's refreshing to see the silver-screen spin on the life of a genius balanced with the truth about what a prick said genius could be. That said, Smith's performance doesn't do enough to make this movie worth the time. You'd be better off diving into *Just Kids* and getting the story—and a better version at that—straight from the source. **BF**



# STAGE MANAGERS

How they keep shows from going up in flames—sometimes literally



PAULA KELLER

BY JAY GABLER

Stage actors are accustomed to receiving applause at the end of each performance, but when they had a chance to turn around and do their own cheering at last year's MN Theater Awards, they saved their loudest applause for the stage managers.

Stage manager Stacy McIntosh says the public shout-out was a "huge honor," but the artists she works with have always made their gratitude quietly known. "That's where the glory comes, for me: having someone say, 'I really appreciate that you took care of us.'"

McIntosh has worked at the Children's Theatre Company for over 20 years, playing an unseen but essential role in coordinating complex productions. She also keeps an eye on the audience, and can help tweak a show to make sure every moment lands as intended.

In college McIntosh studied directing, and explains that as stage manager it's her job to "make sure that the show stays as sharp for that first audience that sees it as for the 125th audience." A show's director typically moves on to other projects after a show opens, so it's up to the stage manager to keep an eye on the production.

A stage manager typically "calls" a show: follows an annotated script and, speaking through monitors for the crew, cues all the necessary technical steps in precise order. "There are times that I actually

talk more than the majority of the cast," McIntosh says.

Ideally, everything runs like a clock... but it's live theater, so occasionally things go wrong, and it's up to the stage manager to get things back on track. Once, during *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, an automated lift malfunctioned and the actors were left waiting for a young star to rise from beneath the stage.

"It's moments like that," explains McIntosh, "when you have to be ready to say, 'How long are we going to wait for the automation to work?' and [when] are we going to say, 'Let's cut our losses and have him run to the stage.'"

Once, McIntosh's job of putting out fires became literal. At a *Jungle Book* performance, some flaming gel accidentally spilled. While the set had been treated to keep any fire from spreading, McIntosh still had to alert a crew member to douse it. For safety's sake, she was ready to disrupt the performance.

"I was expecting a CO2 burst," she says. Instead the nearest crew member unobtrusively used a blanket to snuff the flame. "The actors covered it so well, and that crew did it so calmly, nobody even noticed."

Because McIntosh and her team are ready to take that kind of quick action, the shows can shine. "Artists are sensitive people. That's why they're good at their jobs," says McIntosh. As she sees it, it's her job to make sure those artists can "be brave—because somebody has their back." **CG**

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FRIDAY MARCH 8 [\$3 COVER]  
**'PURR' DANCE PARTY  
W/DJ SLAMDUNKAPHER**

SATURDAY MARCH 9 [\$5 COVER]  
**'FREAK OF THE WEEK'  
DJS BEN BRUMM/ NOLA/ NEIL FOX**

SUNDAY MARCH 10 [FREE]  
**SUPERHEATER/ DREAMSPOOK/  
GOOD IN THE DARK**

MONDAY MARCH 11 [FREE]  
**ADELYN ROSE/ KOJITREE/  
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TUESDAY MARCH 12 [FREE]  
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**SAT, MAR 9**



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**SAT, MAR 16**



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with special guest **FATES WARNING**

Doors 7pm • Music 8pm

**UPCOMING:**

MARCH 23 .. **BLACKBERRY SMOKE** Break it Down Acoustic Tour with **IDA MAE**

MARCH 30 ..... **TOMMY CASTRO** AND THE PAINKILLERS with guest **COREY STEVENS**

APRIL 5 ..... **BLUE OYSTER CULT** with guest **THE TUBES** feat. **FEE WAYBILL**

APRIL 13 ..... **TRILOGY: Tribute To The Doors, Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd**

APRIL 26 ..... **THE AUSTRALIAN BEE GEES SHOW**

A Tribute To The Bee Gees

APRIL 27 ..... **DELBERT MCCLINTON** with guest **THE JIMMYS**

MAY 11 ..... **'ROCKIN' HOLLYWOODS**

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# VOTE

## *Readers' Choice Poll*

Each year, our annual Best of the Twin Cities issue celebrates all the things we love most about our metropolis, from the finest bars and restaurants, to the coolest people, parks, museums, and music.

From March 5 until midnight on March 26, you'll be able to vote on the top five nominees in each category.

Then be sure to catch the Readers' Choice Poll results in our annual Best of the Twin Cities issue, online and hitting newsstands April 17, 2019.

[citypages.com/vote](http://citypages.com/vote)

**CITYPAGES** **BEST** — *of the* — **TWIN CITIES**





# STREET *Style*

**NIGHTCHURCH** With DJ Cassieopia and DJ C Quest at Icehouse, March 3 **BY AMY GEE**



## SYM1

23, PERFORMER, ARTIST

### What are you wearing?

Forever 21 jacket, everything else is from Goodwill and thrift stores.

### Describe your style:

Whatever no one else is wearing with a hint of futuristic.

### Best winter style tips:

Turtlenecks always, even in the summer, and insulated leggings.

### Who are your style icons?

Kerli, Harajuku street style, club kid scene, sci-fi movies.



## SOPHIA ERIS

30, DJ FOR LIZZO, ARTIST, MORNING SHOW HOST FOR GO 95.3

### What are you wearing?

*Stranger Things* hoodie from Amazon, pants from Rewind Vintage, Nike Air Jordan 10s.

### Describe your style:

It's however I feel that day. Comfortable yet inspiring.

### Best winter style tips:

Do what you need to do to survive out here.

### Who are your style icons?

Grace Jones, Rihanna, Sporty Spice.



## EMILY KOHAGURA

25, CURATOR

### What are you wearing?

Zara everything.

### Describe your style:

Minimal, mostly monochrome.

### Best winter style tips:

Multiple pants and layers... so many layers.

### One thing in your closet you can't live without:

Plaid.

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ANNIE MACK, & MAE SIMPSON

**SAT 3/09** **TOM PETTY TRIBUTE**  
IAN ALEX & THE DESERTERS  
GREG "CHEECH" HALL  
& THE WRECKING BALL

**WED 3/13** #FREEMUSICWEDNESDAYS  
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**FRI 3/15** SPECIAL ST. PATRICK'S EDITION  
**BELFAST COWBOYS**

**THU 3/16** **IRISH AMERICAN**  
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Erik Berry and Ryan Young  
of Trampled by Turtles  
with special guest Jillian Rae

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**FRI. GB LEIGHTON**  
**SAT. THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE FUNKY**  
**SUN. A CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER FOR DOUG JAMES**

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TUE MAR 12 .....NOVA JAZZ  
MMC ALL STARS FEAT. JELLYBEAN & JAYBEE  
WED MAR 13 .....CENTURY JAZZ BAND  
THU MAR 14 ..... THE SMILING COWBOYS  
FRI MAR 15 .....BOOGIE WONDERLAND

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SUPPORTIVE PARENTS  
**SAT 3.9 | 7:00PM | \$7**

**NOVATORE,**  
THE LOUIE TOUR, VEX THE MIC  
**TUE 3.12 | 7:00PM | \$5**

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Mar 7 ... Bobby E and Friends 8:30pm-12am  
Mar 8 ... "Detroit" Don King 9:30pm-12am  
Mar 9 ... Chemistry Set 9:30pm-1am  
Mar 10 ... Doug Otto & Friends 5pm-8pm

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**THU MAR 7TH**  
CRAIG KENT'S 1ST THURSDAYS 10PM  
ALBRECHT PISCHEL (DEU) PRESENTS "HEAVY METAL" 11PM  
WELL TRAINED MONKEY, ITCH PRINCESS, OBCHOD NA KORZE 10PM

**FRI MAR 8TH**  
FRONT PORCH SWINGIN' LIQUOR PIGS 10PM  
"WOMEN WHO ROCK" & THAT'S WHAT YOU GET, THE FOX LOVES, CHINA CITY 11PM

**SAT MAR 9TH**  
BIG BEN EATON & THE BORN TO LOSE 11PM  
JAVIER MATOS, DAVE LARSEN, & ATOM ROBINSON 10PM

**SUN MAR 10TH**  
MUMBLIN' DREW w/ PAPA JOHN & THE PERFECT PHITS 11PM  
A PALMER'S SPELLING BEE 10PM

**MON MAR 11TH**  
SKARAOKE w/ JADZIA 10PM  
**TUE MAR 12TH**  
BIG THANKS' 2ND TUESDAYS 10PM  
FT. PLUMSTAR, CHARLIE MILLARD BAND (MI) 11PM

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# CRYSTALS AND GOOGLE DOCS

Doomtree producer Lazerbeak finds his Zen with *Luther*

BY ERICA RIVERA

**L**azerbeak is a hugger. The towering artist and producer will hug you hello and he will hug you goodbye. In between he'll be the friendliest person you've ever met.

Hard to imagine, then, that just a few years ago the jubilant 36-year-old hit rock bottom. In October 2015, after he and his fellow Doomtree collective members pulled off their annual music festival at CHS field, the stress and anxiety accumulated during the six-month planning process, coupled with little sleep and caring for three children under the age of two, avalanched.

"I couldn't focus, I was super depressed, I couldn't take care of my kids," Lazerbeak says. He went to his doctor and confessed that he felt like a shell of himself, which led to a prescription for low-dose anti-anxiety medication. He then read *10% Happier* by Dan Harris and began exploring meditation and mindfulness practices through the Headspace app. "That was the start of this reboot," he says, comparing his zeal for meditation to that of a born-again Christian. "I got high on meditation. I was like, 'I can do anything!'"

It would appear so. The CEO and general manager of Doomtree Records has enough

energy to rocket right out of his rolling desk chair as he discusses his new album, *Luther*, a collection of chill, atmospheric instrumentals.

The album title comes, in part, from Lazerbeak's musical idol, Luther Vandross. "Music can be like church for a lot of people. When I'm going through tough times or when I'm stressed, I've always leaned on his music," Lazerbeak says. *Luther* is also the name of one of Lazerbeak's twin sons. There are photographs of both the artist and the offspring in Lazerbeak's Thorp Building office, which is a barrage of cardboard boxes, cords, and drives. "I almost purposely keep it kind of shitty in here because I didn't necessarily want it to be the place where we were all hanging out, 'cause it means a lot to me to have silence," he says between sips of water from a Mason jar. He spends the bulk of his waking hours here, so he made the space more soothing with a crystal collection, a burning scented candle, a light therapy box, and a trio of Post-Its that remind him to Be clear. Be aware. Be present.

Known "for everything, all at once," Lazerbeak liked the idea of creating stripped-down, pulsing vibes with slow builds for his third solo album. He sourced sounds from Splice.com, altered the pitch and tempo, and layered them together with an Akai MPC2000, like a sonic collage. Though any given song has upward of 20 sounds—shakers, kick drums, xylophone, piano—the album sounds minimalist and unified. "A lot of that is living in quieter spaces and being more aware of silence and clearing the clutter out. This is what I feel like a lot now: more calm," he says.

Lazerbeak didn't think he'd release another solo album after 2012's *Lava Bangers*, but in fall 2017, he started putting instrumental tracks together as a "fun exercise." Slowly, he realized there might be something there. In a world increasingly overrun with too much noise—political, professional, personal, and otherwise—making *Luther* was a respite.

Lazerbeak knew the stylistic pivot was risky, but it was hardly his first. As a high schooler, the man then known as Aaron Mader started out in Plastic Constellations, an indie-rock band that released four albums, two of them on Frenchkiss Records, before going on indefinite hiatus in 2008. Though he was a longtime admirer of hip-hop, Lazerbeak couldn't rap or breakdance. He was afraid of getting in trouble for graffiti. DJing seemed too hard. "Production became the thing

## 331club

wed : march 6  
7pm : kfai house party presents  
boxstore bird  
9:30pm : lonesome dan kase

thu : march 7  
9:30pm : mike munson

fri : march 8  
7pm : laura and sean's  
movie and music trivia  
10pm : speedweed, silt, point lobo

sat : march 9  
7pm : trivia mafia presents  
331 drinkin' spelling bee  
10pm : k.raydio & friends  
featuring: d'allen white, mixie,  
dj bob marino + special guests

sun : march 10  
2-4pm : dr. sketchy's anti-art school  
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : march 11  
8pm : the roe family singers  
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : march 12  
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening  
good mitten  
9:30pm : 331 club and fair state brewing  
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**SUNDAY MARCH 10**  
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12PM • BAR STAGE • AA • FREE

**TUESDAY MARCH 12**  
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Nina Nesbitt  
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**WEDNESDAY MARCH 13**  
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## LIVE EVENTS

Wednesday, Mar. 6 || 7:00 pm  
**Dave Eggers & Mokhtar Alkhanshali: The Monk of Mokha LIVE**

Friday, Mar. 8 || 8:00 pm  
**An Evening with Lazerbeak & Guests**

Friday, Mar. 15 || 8:00 pm  
**The Shabby Road Orchestra Performs Sgt. Pepper's**

## CINEMA

Thursday, Mar. 7 || 7:30 pm  
**Back to the Future** (1985)  
35mm Presentation

Saturday Matinee, Mar. 9 || 1 pm  
**Babe** (1995) Digital

Sunday Matinee, Mar. 10 || 1 pm  
**Little Shop of Horrors Sing-Along** (1986) Digital

Thursday, Mar. 14 || 7:30 pm  
**The Royal Tenenbaums** (2001) Digital

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## MUSIC

where I felt like I could contribute to this culture," he says.

By 2010, when Lazerbeak released his first solo record, *Legend Recognize Legend*, he was so well-known as a rap producer that few anticipated a collection of indie-pop tracks. "That threw a lot of people off," he says. "They were expecting a rap album. Then I did put out a rap album. Now I'm doing this weird meditation album. I get that I'm not the most marketable guy."

*Luther's* mellow vibe is impressive given what Lazerbeak juggles on a daily basis: emails, conference calls, tour schedules, release schedules, a new podcast, and strategy and operations for a slew of other artists. "Ninety percent of my day-to-day is not making music at all," he says. "My life is Google docs."

And crystals. He's so enamored with them he earned the nickname "Crystal Daddy." He always has rocks on him, like the polished red stone he keeps in his pocket. It serves as a reminder to check in with people or say, "I love you." Crystals have become a hobby for Lazerbeak and his wife, who got sober a year and a half ago. "It's become a thing we both have found replaced some of our bonding over drinking," he says. "And they look rad as hell, I'm not going to lie."

The new and improved Lazerbeak feels less pressure when it comes to performing. "Winging it has definitely been the theme of this whole project," he says. For his upcoming release show on March 8 at the Parkway, he's doing a "grown-up" seated event during which he'll break down the new songs, discuss their meditative origins, and delve into his mental wellness journey. "I feel strongly about pushing that conversation forward, even if it's to be the dork that's like, 'I like crystals! Go see a therapist!' It might not hurt." ☐

## CRITICS' PICKS

### THE FLESH EATERS

TURF CLUB, SATURDAY 3.9

Dating from punk's early days, L.A.'s Flesh Eaters have enjoyed an episodic existence, with a revolving lineup around singer/songwriter Chris D. They fuse aggressive punk with splashes of blues, rockabilly, and boogie amid D.'s apocalyptic-noir ravings. The band's 1981 lineup, featuring members of X (John Doe, D.J. Bonebrake) and the Blasters (Dave Alvin, Steve Berlin, Bill Bateman), was its best, and that crew recorded *I Used to Be Pretty*, the Eaters' first album in 15 years, and has hit the road. The veteran all-star cast ensures *Pretty's* originals and covers glow with caustic charm. Porcupine, with ex-Hüsker Dü bassist Greg Norton, opens. 21+. 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$30. 1601 University Ave., St. Paul. 651-647-0486. —RICK MASON

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**VOLK** (from Nashville),  
**The Sex Rays**  
FRIDAY MARCH 8

**The Semi-Pro Comedy Show**  
EVERY FIRST FRIDAY • 6:30PM

**In Circles, Misfit Love** 10PM  
SATURDAY MARCH 9

**Twin Town Guitars**  
**Music Showcase**

**The Assortment**  
with DJ Michael Grey

SUNDAY MARCH 10 • 9PM • \$6  
**Yellowstone Apocalypse,**  
**Ulkum, The Curtain**

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
Mar 13 . . . . . The Carnegies,  
Whale in the Thames,  
Almost Every Tuesday, Brian V  
Mar 15 . . . . . Run Westy Run  
Mar 16 . . . . . Death Of A Ladies' Man  
"The Apologist" release  
with New Primals & Silt  
Mar 17 . . . . . St Patrick's Day with  
Run Westy Run

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**FRIDAY MARCH 8**

**Extraterrestrials, The Smokes,**  
**TV Moms, Kill Palace**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 9**

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The Cedar and KFAI Present  
**An Evening with**  
**ALASDAIR AND NATALIE**  
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$25 GA

**Friday, March 8**  
The Cedar and KFAI Present  
**CHRISTINE LAVIN**  
**with Lonesome Dan Kase**  
Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$22 ADV/\$25 DOS

**Saturday, March 9 + Sunday, March 10**  
Brazilfest MN Presents  
**CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO**  
**March 9: Afternoon Family Matinee**  
Doors 2:30pm • Show 3pm • All Ages  
\$12 ADV/\$15 DOS/\$30 Two-Show Pass  
**March 10: Evening Show**  
Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages  
\$22 ADV/\$30 DOS/\$30 Two-Show Pass

**Sunday, March 10**  
The Cedar Presents  
**An Evening with WE BANJO 3**  
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$25 GA/\$35 Center

**Friday, March 15**  
The Cedar Presents  
**MARCHFOURTH**  
**with Orkestar Bez Ime**  
Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$18 GA/\$20 DOS

**Tuesday, March 19**  
First Avenue and 89.3 The Current Present  
**ÄSGEIR**  
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$15 GA

**Thursday, March 21**  
The Cedar, KFAI, and Alliance Française Present  
**VIVE LE REMIX!**  
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

**♈ ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Genius inventor Thomas Edison rebelled against sleep, which he regarded as wasteful. He tried to limit his time in bed to four hours per night so he would have more time to work during his waking hours. Genius scientist Albert Einstein had a different approach. He preferred 10 hours of sleep per night, and liked to steal naps during the day, too. In my astrological opinion, Aries, you're in a phase when it makes more sense to imitate Einstein than Edison. Important learning and transformation are happening in your dreams. Give your nightly adventures maximum opportunity to work their magic in your behalf.

**♉ TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): The Danish flag has a red background emblazoned with an asymmetrical white cross. It was a national symbol of power as early as the fourteenth century, and may have first emerged during a critical military struggle that established the Danish empire in 1219. No other country in the world has a flag with such an ancient origin. But if Denmark's Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, who's a Taurus, came to me and asked me for advice, I would urge him to break with custom and design a new flag—maybe something with a spiral rainbow or a psychedelic tree. I'll suggest an even more expansive idea to you, Taurus: create fresh traditions in every area of your life!

**♊ GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): On June 7, 1988, Gemini musician Bob Dylan launched what has come to be known as the Never Ending Tour. It's still going. In the past 30+ years, he has performed almost 3,000 shows on every continent except Antarctica. In 2018 alone, at the age of 77, he did 84 gigs. He's living proof that not every Gemini is flaky and averse to commitment. Even if you yourself have flirted with flightiness in the past, I doubt you will do so in the next five weeks. On the contrary, I expect you'll be a paragon of persistence, doggedness, and stamina.

**♋ CANCER** (June 21-July 22): The otters at a marine park in Miura City, Japan are friendly to human visitors. There are holes in the glass walls of their enclosures through which they reach out to shake people's hands with their webbed paws. I think you need experiences akin to that in the coming weeks. Your mental and spiritual health will thrive to the degree that you seek closer contact with animals. It's a favorable time to nurture your instinctual intelligence and absorb influences from the natural world. For extra credit, tune in to and celebrate your own animal qualities.

**♌ LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Between 1977 and 1992, civil war raged in Mozambique. Combatants planted thousands of land mines that have remained dangerous long after the conflict ended. In recent years, a new ally has emerged in the quest to address the problem: rats that are trained to find the hidden explosives so that human colleagues can defuse them. The expert sniffers don't weigh enough to detonate the mines, so they're ideal to play the role of saviors. I foresee a metaphorically comparable development in your future, Leo. You'll get help and support from a surprising or seemingly unlikely source.

**♍ VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Imagine a stairway that leads nowhere; as you ascend, you realize that at the top is not a door or a hallway, but a wall. I suspect that lately you may have been dealing with a metaphorical version of an anomaly like this. But I also predict that in the coming weeks some magic will transpire that will change everything. It's like you'll find a button on the wall that when pushed opens a previously imperceptible door. Somehow, you'll gain entrance through an apparent obstruction.

**♎ LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not all of the classic works of great literature are entertaining. According to one survey of editors, writers, and librarians, Goethe's *Faust*, Melville's *Moby Dick*, and Cervantes' *Don Quixote* are among the most boring masterpieces ever written. But most experts agree that they're still valuable to read. In that spirit, and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you to commune with other dull but meaningful things. Seek out low-key but rich offerings. Be aware that unexciting people and situations may offer clues and catalysts that you need.

**♏ SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Many of you Scorpius regard secrecy as a skill worth cultivating. It serves your urge to gather and manage power. You're aware that information is a valuable commodity, so you guard it carefully and share it sparingly. This predilection sometimes makes you seem understated, even shy. Your hesitancy to express too much of your knowledge and feelings may influence people to underestimate the intensity that seethes within you. Having said all that, I'll now predict that you'll show the world who you are with more dazzle and flamboyance in the coming weeks. It'll be interesting to see how you do that as you also try to heed your rule that information is power.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian actress and producer Deborah-Lee Furness has been married to megastar actor Hugh Jackman for 23 years. Their wedding rings are inscribed with a motto that blends Sanskrit and English, "Om paramar to the mainamar." Hugh and Deborah-Lee say it means "We dedicate our union to a greater source." In resonance with current astrological omens, I invite you to engage in a similar gesture with an important person in your life. Now is a marvelous time to deepen and sanctify your relationship by pledging yourselves to a higher purpose or beautiful collaboration or sublime mutual quest.

**♑ CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In 1997, a supercomputer named Deep Blue won six chess matches against Chess Grand Master Gary Kasparov. In 2016, an Artificial Intelligence called AlphaGo squared off against human champion Lee Sodol in a best-of-five series of the Chinese board game Go. AlphaGo crushed Sodol, four games to one. But there is at least one cerebral game in which human intelligence still reigns supreme: the card game known as bridge. No AI has as yet beat the best bridge players. I bring this to your attention, Capricorn, because I am sure that in the coming weeks, no AI could out-think and out-strategize you as you navigate your way through life's tests and challenges. You'll be smarter than ever. P.S.: I'm guessing your acumen will be extra soulful, as well.

**♒ AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): At regular intervals, a hot stream of boiling water shoots up out of the earth and into the sky in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park. It's a geyser called Old Faithful. The steamy surge can reach a height of 185 feet and last for five minutes. When white settlers first discovered this natural phenomenon in the 19th century, some of them used it as a laundry. Between blasts, they'd place their dirty clothes in Old Faithful's aperture. When the scalding flare erupted, it provided all the necessary cleansing. I'd love to see you attempt a metaphorically similar feat, Aquarius: harness a natural force for a practical purpose, or a primal power for an earthly task.

**♐ PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Who was the model for Leonardo da Vinci's iconic painting *Mona Lisa*? Many scholars think it was Italian noblewoman Lisa del Giocondo. Leonardo wanted her to feel comfortable during the long hours she sat for him, so he hired musicians to play for her and people with mellifluous voices to read her stories. He built a musical fountain for her to gaze upon and a white Persian cat to cuddle. If it were within my power, I would arrange something similar for you in the coming weeks. Why? Because I'd love to see you be calmed and soothed for a concentrated period of time; to feel perfectly at ease, at home in the world, surrounded by beautiful influences you love. In my opinion, you need and deserve such a break from the everyday frenzy.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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WICKED GAME

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 “Let’s Put Smart To Work” sloganeer  
4 Barbecue leftovers  
9 7” measurements  
13 Piece of shit  
14 Hwy. through the Twin Cities  
15 Carrier with the frequent flier program Matmid  
16 Option : Mac :: \_\_\_\_ : PC  
17 Defend Erykah on the court with two players?  
19 “You’re a card”  
21 \_\_\_\_ diavolo sauce  
22 Static cling generating machine  
23 Forbidden dance done by first-year law students?  
26 Stat for a clean-up hitter  
27 Inspector in Elizabeth George mysteries  
31 The S of “iOS”  
33 Deal with a fly  
37 “First \_\_\_\_ harm”  
38 Consciously accept unpleasantries, and an alternate title for this puzzle

- 41 Ten C’s  
42 Cream of the crop  
43 Kin of equi-  
44 Reacts to a depressor  
46 Refund issuer  
48 “Arabian Nights” hero’s levies?  
54 Tribal head  
57 Rock producer who describes himself as a “non-musician”  
58 Puzzle maker Birnholz  
59 Youngster in the New Mexico caverns?

- 62 “Trial of the Century” judge  
63 Locket shape  
64 Cartoon character who’s a member of the Space Club Troop  
65 Promising letters?  
66 Racketeers break them  
67 V travelers  
68 CD accrual

Down

- 1 It borders Canada for only 45 miles  
2 Marc of T. Rex  
3 Child with clinging issues  
4 Ben Carson’s agcy.  
5 1-Down’s home, briefly  
6 \_\_\_\_ and Drang  
7 Sticky lunch?  
8 TV show Cypress Hill and Rage Against The Machine are banned from for life  
9 Gives a new name and logo, say  
10 Recess activity  
11 Created  
12 Talk drunkenly  
18 Swirling water  
20 Priest’s vestment  
24 “Double Dare” host Koshy  
25 Omega opposite  
28 French king nicknamed “the Desired”  
29 RSVP cards, e.g.  
30 Strawberry Fields benefactor Ono  
31 Locks into place

- 32 Jewish males’ grp.  
34 Corporate raider Carl  
35 Lab in the basement?  
36 Western native  
39 Quarterback Wilson and point guard Westbrook  
40 Give off  
45 Opens up a window, say  
47 “Insecure” star Issa  
49 “If \_\_\_\_ Street Could Talk”  
50 Conductor Previn  
51 Martial arts studios  
52 Use, as paper plates  
53 Tapir prominence  
54 Invasive species subj.  
55 Hot rock  
56 Neither win nor lose  
60 Seek help  
61 Pastrami bread

Last Week’s Answer

|     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PAW | L | I | B | E | R | A | L |   | P | S | T |
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| S   | E | E | N |   | G | A | R | D | E | N | H |
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## SAVAGE LOVE

# Loaded Question

Do I have to warn her  
about my ejaculate?



Dan Savage

**L**et's say my kink is edging and I edge myself for a few days leading up to a date. Is it my responsibility to tell my potential partner? There are a few variables here that are important to note. This is a first/Tinder date, and it's just a coffee date, BUT she and I have talked about our expectations and there will likely be a physical aspect in whatever potential relationship may ensue. I understand that it's never cool to involve someone in your kink without their consent, but what are the rules here? On one hand, if I don't divulge this information, I could see how my production of an unexpectedly large amount of ejaculate could be upsetting, depending on the circumstances/activity. But on the other hand, at least some amount of come is expected, right? If I randomly had massive loads every single time through no effort of my own, would I be responsible for letting a partner know? Perhaps it would be the polite thing to do. I guess I'd feel comfortable saying, "Hey, by the way, I produce very large loads," if sex was imminent. But when you add the kink factor into the mix, I think something like that should be talked about before sex is "imminent." So what responsibility do I have to divulge this information? And if I do have a responsibility to divulge this, when would be the appropriate time to bring it up?

WHAT OUGHT ONE DO?

**Let's say... you blow that load.** I can't imagine your new friend will be shocked. Blowing loads, after all, is what men do\* with their penises\*\*, WOOD, and most people who are attracted to men are aware of this fact. And anyone who's slept with two or more men is aware that some men blow bigger loads than others. Volumes vary between men, and the volume of an individual man's loads can vary naturally or as the direct result of an intentional intervention, like edging.

Backing up for a second: Edging entails bringing yourself or being brought to

the edge of coming over and over again. Draw out the buildup to a single orgasm for hours or days—by edging yourself or being edged by someone else—and the resulting load will be larger than normal for the edged individual. But even so, an edged dude's load can still be smaller than the load of a guy who just naturally produces more ejaculate.

So, no, I don't think there's a pressing need to disclose your kink to your date. If it gets sexual, she's going to expect you to produce ejaculate at some point. Even if the load you wind up blowing is enormous, you're not going to drown her or wash out her IUD.

Frankly, WOOD, your letter reads like you got baked out of your mind and sat up half the night trying to come up with an excuse to tell this woman about your not-that-kinky kink and "I should tell her as a courtesy" was the best you could do.

If you want to tell her, go ahead and tell her. But since there's no need to tell her, there's a strong chance she'll react negatively to your "courtesy" disclosure. Even if she's made it clear there could be "a physical aspect in whatever potential relationship may ensue," she's going to be scrutinizing you for signs that you aren't someone she wants to get naked with. She'll be looking for red flags at your first face-to-face meeting, and if you come across like a creep with piss-poor judgment—and a needless conversation about how much ejaculate you produce and why you produce so much ejaculate will definitely come across as creepy—then she may decide not to ensue with you.

\* Not all men have penises, not all penises have men, not all men blow loads, not all loads are blown by men, etc.

\*\* Not the only thing men do with their penises, some men don't do that thing with their penises, some penis-havers don't do that thing as men, etc.

mail@savagelove.net

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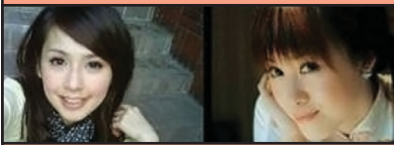
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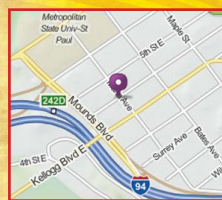
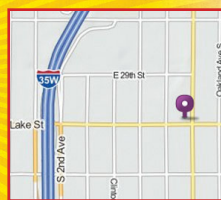
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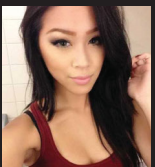
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